Cote House, near Bristol.
September 25th 1850.

My dear Mr May.

It is not often that I allow between 3 & 4 months to elapse ~~between~~ during the periods of my writing to you. My last letter to you was dated June 10th or 9th only 2 or 3 days before I set off for the Continent. During the 9 weeks I was abroad (at least for 7 of them) tho' I did not write to you, I never felt so much in communion with you. Without ~~any~~ deserving the ~~suspicion~~ accusation of vanity, I felt satisfied you would hear from other friends at least where my daughter & I were. On our return to Bristol, August 18th I found your letter of July 22nd. For the first fortnight after my return, I was too busy with patients who had long been, some anxiously, awaiting my return, & the last 3 I have been spent much in bed. I suppose I was over worked, & dropped in consequence under a feverish attack. I am much better, but strength, & power of mental exertion without fatigue, return slowly. I am come to a friend's in the country, Mr. Ames's for a little fresh air & the more thorough repose. I can but put a letter on the stocks for you. A long one recd. lately from Miss Weston at Interlachen, I had the mortification of answering it by a short note only. And now, (tho' I suppose you will consider it no compliment to you or praise to myself) "old friends" still prevails over ~~both~~ new, & even over gallantry

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and I employ the small powers I possess in a letter ~~addressing~~ to you instead of to Miss Anne Weston; ~~to whom if~~ had circumstances enabled me to write to her, I should ere now have addressed her with all that *un*constraint which a person feels ~~to~~ on whom some new relationship has conferred the privilege of entering into a family.

In ignorance of how much I may be able to write I at once refer to yours of July 22d — Thank you for the trouble you took about seeing Mr. W. H. Channing. I had long given up all expectation of getting an answer to my warrantable inquiry — *and do so still.*

Mr. C. in his Memoir of Dr. C. declared that the only ~~pictures~~ original portraits of Dr. C. were certain ones which he enumerates. Upon the faith of Mrs. Chapman, I purchased one as an original, the sole value of which depends upon its authenticity. Mr. W. H. C. is asked to reconcile this fact with his contrary statements. *He takes no notice of the only portion of the question ~~of~~ to which an answer from him is in common justice due*, but tells me that "if Mrs. Chapman thinks well of it, "it should be sufficient to satisfy me that "it does not misrepresent the original"!! Mrs. Chapman's opinion *is* "*sufficient to satisfy* me, not only of the correctness of the *statements*, but of the authenticity of the portrait, — a satisfaction to which Mrs. Channing refuses the smallest confirmation.

Dr. Sargent gave me in Paris your letter of introduction to me at Bristol. I was very glad to be acquainted with him, & am indebted to him for many facilities of seeing the practice of the hospitals &c, which I should difficultly, if at all have surmounted, alone. I was pleased with Dr. S. he did not strike me as egotistical: the hesitation in his speech appeared the cause of a prolix & measured way in his conversation: our ~~conversation was~~ communications were principally on professional subjects to which he seems to have devoted thought, & experience. & zeal; and on Antislavery topics. Upon the latter, I was glad to have his views, for his sympathies were with the Abolitionists, without his having ~~bo~~ committed himself to any action with them. He introduced me to a Dr. Stewart a slaveholder from Maryland, I believe, who called on me, & knowing my tendencies, volunteered ~~his~~ a conversation in defence of his approval of slavery. I was struck with the little he had to say; he admitted that nothing would induce him to sell a slave. I did not argue with him, as I was anxious to hear all he had to say. Of course I did not conceal my disappointment with his sentiments
Dr. Sargent was permitted to spend a day or two with

me in Bristol on his way homewards.

Of the Glasgow Circular, – at least of the replies to you now know more than when you wrote. Miss Weston said you should have ~~an~~ early a copy of Mrs. Chapman's reply & mine. The Circular has not been widely ~~circulated~~ disseminated, but it is well calculated to do the mischief it aims at, "mean & weak" as you think it, & as it really is. We hear that the old Societies of Glasgow & Edinburgh will not, as Societies, send their usual boxes to Boston this year. We feared for ours, but Mrs. Herbert Thomas, who is busy in collecting & receiving, she thinks we shall not fall short of former years. Our blind pupils are working as ~~[illegible]~~ usual. My daughter & Mrs. Mitchell are again at their ~~laborious~~ making picture frames &c, in some mysterious way to imitate old oak carving. My absence prevented me from displaying my "Reply" as extensively as I wished but it has had circulation among the most part of our known, & knowing A.S. friends.

I quite think that, on the whole, it was better for us than for Mr. Garrison to fight their battle; & at an ~~wide~~ rate, that whatever he did, we should not be supine. I think Miss Weston told me you were satisfied with my letter on the occasion. I sent the first copy of the "Reply" I had from the Paris printer, to the ladies (the 9 Misses) with

2nd/ a tolerably strong note.

I was glad Mr. Garrison printed the extract from Miss Lupton's letter: there could be no possible objection to his doing so withholding all information as to the identity of his correspondent.

Thank you for transacting my money affairs: I regret leaving you 42 cents the poorer. I should not have asked for a receipt from the Lib. Office, had not Mr. Wallcutt previously sent one: if not attended with any particular difficulty, I should say that it was especially satisfactory to *foreign* subscribers to have a receipt: it much *associates* them with the *business* routine of the paper.

Your relatives the Frothinghams were in no respect backward in acknowledging any little civilities I had it in my power to show them. It was a pleasure to me to see them & to forward their seeing others.

The news of President Taylor's death reached us at Heidelberg: Mrs. Chapman had received her letters by the mail which brought the news, but they were written previously to the event. The account I saw in Galignani's paper at our hotel at night, so I immediately went off to Mrs. C.'s lodgings, & bore to them the information with which they were much struck.

Since my return to England I have had a good deal of communication with W. Brown, & wrote letters to him while unable to write any others. He seems to be going on energetically with his panorama, & I should think successfully. Mr G. Thompson is very sanguine of its benefiting him & the A. S. cause. Of the merits of the painting I have no report but W. B.'s he is well satisfied with it, but how far he is a competent judge I know not. I ~~must~~ have so much faith in B.'s good sense, uprightness, & thorough devotion to the "Am. A. S. Soc" that I have not hesitated to help him in various ways with the Panorama. I have looked over the proof of his "Description" of the Pan; & have suggested slight alterations which he has readily adopted. His description of the 24 views or scenes, is simple, & I think will be taking. This pamphlet he means to sell at the Exhibition for /6d— I have written a "conclusion" to it, as an Appeal for the Boston Bazaar, endeavouring to condense into a couple of pages the aims of the Abolitionists (much misunderstood here) & the ~~medium~~ means of showing sympathy with them thro' the medium of the Bazaar,

B. means to exhibit his Pan^a: first at Newcastle upon Tyne, Mr Richardson & other friends there pressing it, & being anxious to serve him. Some editors of papers will give him a lift. I think each of his pieces of canvass, containing a "scene" is ~~1½~~ 10 feet long & 10 or 12 high: they are of course united & if I have not mistaken the dimensions, the present length will be 240 feet: he intended at first to have 30 pieces, but found his finances would not yet stand more than 24: he can add to it. If the drawing be tolerable he will certainly succeed with the help of friends.

Park Street – Sep: 30 – Of my health I can report progress. I should not have said a word upon the (to me) disgusting subject of homoeopathy had you not specially requested it in your former letter. I hope you are recovering health! ~~[illegible]~~ Russell Carpenter called on me a few days after his return, he landed Aug. 29th after only 3 weeks passage. I was too unwell to have more than a few minutes conversation with him. I was glad that he did go to the 1st Aug: meeting & speak, tho' his speech was not a very telling one. I cannot profess to be as ignorant as he does. He "understands neither the slaveholders nor the Abolitionists." I may be very vain, but I think I understand both, – enough certainly for my own satisfaction. I don't yet know what R.C.

will give forth as his judgment on the whole matter. He encourages working for the B. Bazaar. It was clear to me that he felt *professionally* annoyed at the attacks made by the A. S. par as he said, upon the *ministerial office*. –

I suppose you heard of *our*, (that is Mrs. Chap her sisters & daughters, my daughter Miss Park & myself) celebrating the 1st. of August in the beautiful grounds of Heidelberg Castle? Our party were Mrs. Chapman's guests on the oc-casion – We *lost an opportunity* at Heidel Jenny Lind was at our hotel, the Badischer H & we might very easily have sent to her one or t A. S. tracts to instruct her on her voyage; but w thought of it too late: my "Brief Notice" was at hand. Annie Chapman had wreathed a la chaplet with oak leaves on a walk we had just taken to show me how they are done fo the Boston Bazaar, and the ladies sent it by th waiter to Mlle Lind's room, but I know not if she received it. Miss Parker, Emma and I heard her singing 2 days after, *outside* the concert-room at Baden Baden, (we were out

The mention of the friends above, leads me to speak of them before going to any other subje But how can I find time, or strength, or even *paper* to say all that I would desire to say?

It was very gratifying to us that our interco with them was not transient or superfic but very *thorough*, & during a period of six wee

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3d/ You may suppose that there were few points upon Antislavery matters, at least with regard to such as we wanted ~~the~~ inform~~ed upon~~ation, on, that we did not fully discuss. We have been altogether enlightened upon a few topics, and had our views cleared, & our knowledge strengthened upon others. Our numerous & interesting conversations have left much subject for reflection. We have been able more thoroughly to comprehend the difficult position of the Antislavery party in America, & the sort of warfare in which you have to engage. Upon a calm review of all the information we have gained, I cannot but ~~a~~ confess to a degree of melancholy ~~with~~ which it casts upon my mind. It appears to me that I clearly see why uniting with the Abolns in their opposition to religious organizations, & to sabbath observances, must be so distasteful to many serious persons among you as entirely to prevent their co-operation. I am too, quite satisfied that so long as this sort of warfare is considered necessary in America, but a very small portion of Antislavery persons in England will ever join heartily ~~in~~ with the Am. Socy, at least not if they understand the line you feel it necessary to take; ~~&~~, & there will never be wanting those who will take care to point out the "infidels," "anti-religionists" &c. Even that Glasgow circular is calculated to do mischief which the English friends of the Am. Socy would labour in vain, excepting with a few persons

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to prevent. I constantly feel that if with much trouble I give an uninformed person some knowledge of the A.S. movement, & excite an interest in behalf of the Abolit^s. sometimes his sympathy is in danger of being instantly checked by the quotation of some of H.C. Wright's declarations, (for example,) & also the information that *he* is one of the Am. Abols, & that such is their mode of arguing & attacking. — And still more, I cannot but think that a systematic opposition to much that is good, because it is mixed with what is bad, must have an unfavorable influence upon the minds of those who are thus habitually engaged. I know that it would upon my mind; and I can easily suppose, that were I in the U.S. I might take up the view that any good I could do by my personal exertions by towards liberating the slave, would be dearly paid for by my weakening in myself and in others those religious influences which a certain respect for a sabbath, & the communing with kindred hearts in public worship, are calculated to produce. — I should be fearful of the effect upon myself of dwelling perpetually upon the faults & short-comings of others, apprehensive that it would draw off my attention from that strict self-examination, — that cherishing of religious feeling, that cultivation of personal purity & holiness which are essential to the

Christian character. I hardly should be afraid too that parents who have children to bring up, would hardly be able to supply from other sources what they would get rid of by making them indifferent to the varied religious impressions springing from a day of rest & public worship. I cannot but think that the habitual neglect in parents of all the externals of religion, would deprive them of the opportunity of effectively impressing the minds of their children with a high standard of truthfulness, of self-control, ~~and~~ & of the regulation of their whole conduct by religious principle. –

I have written perhaps too unreservedly ~~perhaps~~, my inward thoughts on this subject, but you must not suppose me to be passing any judgment upon ~~the~~ your mode of contending with the varied obstacles to the Antislavery cause: I am quite able to believe that at present you have no alternative in your proceedings.

While writing the above, a letter from Miss A. Weston was brought to me inclosing her correspondence with Miss Wigham of Edinburgh. It makes me more desirous even than I was before of writing to her: my daughter however will answer her by this mail instead of waiting for the box, & I shall be able to send a few lines; — still, I will not relax in my fidelity to you, or make this shorter than I intended. – After the rise of the tide is a little against the Bazaars this year, tho' not here I am happy to say: the articles are on view at Mrs H. Thomas's to day & to-morrow & do not fall short of former years.

Octr 1st I am quite aware of Douglass's position, & the N. Star prospects and the "Griffin" influence. We throw no difficulties in the way of persons contributing to his bazaar, a few articles for it have come to Mrs Thomas for him, indeed Miss Carpenter offers to receive things on his behalf.

I have heard from Brown to day who says his pamphlet, (description of the Panorama) is ~~finished~~ printed, & the painting all but completed. This pamphlet is to be sold by booksellers.

Dr. E. B. Hall was here 2 or 3 weeks ago, & preached at our chapel: I was not well enough to see him. Mr Armstrong, Mr James & Miss Carpenter did, as well as Russell C, who was then here. Dr Hall told Mr. Armstrong that Dr. F. Parkman an wished Mr. A. to know, that his views on the slavery question had undergone modification, & that he could not now have written so strongly against the Abolitn. movement or in favour of his then course, as he did in a former correspondence. Miss C. conversed with Dr. H. upon the Boston Bazaar: & he said, (at least so we understand from her) that he had wished his wife & family not to have their names mixed up with it, as the Agents of the Society which it is connected with.

4th) were employed ~~not~~ by the Society to lecture ~~Ant~~ during divine service, in other chapels, upon Anti: Sabbatarianism & other objectionable subjects. Such was Miss C's impression of the nature of Dr. Hull's complaint; but I do not think she is sufficiently clear upon the point to warrant a direct charge against Dr. H. but I like you to know everything: she also understood that you appointed the agents to their service. I think it not impossible that Dr. H. meant, that while lecturing on A. S, the agents also brought in these other topics.

Dr. Webster's trial has been commented on by all our Medical journals in consequence of the curious medico-legal questions it involved. The general opinion here is, that the murder was premeditated. R. Carpenter spoke of Dr Geo. Parkman as a man of great generosity of character In another quarter – which you may guess – I have heard a very different account of the Dr. P.

2nd I was spoken to, a few days ago, to take a part in a public A. S. meeting here when Dr Pennington Mr. Crummell, & Garnet would attend. My health would have prevented anything of the kind, — & so wd the object, the advocacy of the free labour produce question. I do not wish to have much to do with Pennington: I suspect he is a great foe to the Am: A. S. Soc: & it is by no means clear that he has not had a hand in the Glasgow Circular. The English A. S. party, by whom such the supporters of the B. & F. A. S. Soc.y – a powerful & influential body if they could be brought into action, having nothing to do in the A. S. way (for they will not assist you) are amusing themselves with their question, & pretending to be doing a wonderful work. Brown writes me that Garnet had been dining with him. that he was going to lecture on free labour, but that he thought he "would miss it." Mrs Chapman said to me in reference to the A. S. work doing by that Soc.y that "they were only whitewashing the sepulchres of "their fathers."

It was a great satisfaction to us at Heidelberg to have had the opportunity of introducing Mr Lalor of the "Inquirer", to Mrs Chapman & the Miss Westons. You know Mr Lalor's views, – very sound as far as they go. The conversation was animated & interesting, & the parties separated mutually pleased with one another.

Miss Julia Griffiths wrote to Miss Carpenter some time since saying she was ~~und~~ going "to undertake the financial department of the N. Star." Is not that woman making a fool of herself & damaging Douglass?

A N. Y. paper has been sent to me to day, I know not by whom. It is chiefly about the holding of Land in America, & has nothing in it that interests me.

Perhaps I have written rather harshly

about Mr. W. H. Channing. He certainly has not treated my civil & reasonable inquiries with that attention which is customary in good society but ~~perhaps~~ I have no doubt he has forgotten all about the matter, may have numerous things to think of, and may not possess a very methodical ~~mind,~~ or habits, or a particularly practical turn of mind X the last deficiency I should be inclined to suspect from the bungling manner in which he spoiled a good argument at the ~~Anti Slavery Meeting~~ N.E. Convention by imputing intentional want of truthfulness to Mr. Foster, when he needed have argued nothing beyond the false construction liable to be put upon particular language.

When you see him thank him for his letter, and for his good intentions, (- materials with which it is said a certain place is "paved".)

Does Mr. Garrison mean to allude in the Liberator to the Glasgow Circular? The move is a serious one in design, tho' I do not think the Circular has had a wide circulation -
I will send some copies of my "Reply" by the Boston box in case they may be useful. I should like Douglass to have one if you can manage it.

A move is making which I cannot comprehend but certainly see some fallacies in the scheme -
A Mr. Turnbull of Jamaica, (a member I believe of a Commissn. for the adjudicatn. of Slave ships) has assembled the

Bristol W. I. proprietors & merchants to propose a schem
which he says has Lord Grey's sanction, viz: to ~~receive~~
receive from America colored emigrants: grantin
each an acre of land & free passage, the latter to cost 25 Do
The private circular to Mr. Ames stated, that not on
would free colored people thus emigrate, but that so
slaveholders would liberate their slaves if they can
thus be provided for. You have the matter in its cove
form. I know not upon what terms the people are t
labour; but I believe that English labourers if they co
not drink, might thrive in Jamaica & keep their
health. You may make any use of this statements
avoiding names. —

Friday 14th: Being now within a few hours of
post time, and resolved upon sending a few wor
friendly remembrance to Miss A. Weston, I
must conclude with my own & my daughters
kindest regards to yourself Mrs. May & your family

Ever sincerely Yours

J. B. Estlin

I was much amused with Gerrit Smith's remarks upon American & Foreign A. S. Soc. in the N. Star of the 12th inst.

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